

URBAN DISTRICT OF HOLYHEAD

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1954

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Incorporating the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954

Chairman: Councillor Richard Gray

MEMBERS

Councillor R. Gray	Councillor Edward Jones, J.P.,
" W.T. Rowlands	" D. Manley Williams
" R.Ll. Hughes	" J. Morris Williams
" Hugh Jones, J.P.	" W.D.M. Ankers
" Evan Thomas	" A. Ifan Jones, M.B.E.
" J.L. Williams	" David Williams J.P.
" Richard Jones	" Mrs M. Hughes, B.E.M.
" Hugh Ross	" H.P. Jones
" Llewelyn Lewis	" William Jones
" Caradog Roberts	" Robert Roberts, J.P.
" Gwilym Jones	

Chairman of the Council: Councillor D. Manley Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:	G.H.B. Roberts, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., L.M., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector and Imported Food Officer.	A. Maldwyn Jones Esq., F.S.I.A. M.R.San. I. Cert. R.S.I. (Meat & Food)

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee,
Holyhead Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the health of your District for the year 1954. As previously, the report incorporates the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year under review the population of your Urban District remained virtually static upon the figure for the previous year, an increase of only 20 being shown by the Registrar General's mid-year estimation. The total Rateable value has shown some increase by £1,259.

The number of Dwelling houses has increased by 100 but it would appear that the Business Premises have increased by 242 to a figure of 531.

The Birth Rate has shown an appreciable progression from 14.2 per 1,000 population to 18.3; - the respective rates for former years were for 1952, 15.2; 1951, 18.7, and for 1950, 18.2. The current birth rate compares with 15.9 for Anglesey and with 15.2 for England & Wales as a whole; - both of these latter two figures having shown little change upon those for 1953.

This comparatively higher Birth Rate in your District must, of course, be considered in relation to the Housing Waiting list of the present and for many years to come.

The Stillbirth Rate of 0.4 virtually equals that for the whole County and also for England & Wales as a whole, but compares with 0.29 for 1953.

The Death Rate has not shown any very appreciable variation although the tendency has been towards an increase. The present figure of 12.3 contrasts with 14.2 for the County and with 11.3 for the whole country.

An analysis and comparison of the causes of death show no really significant change, with the possible exception of causes from cancer of the lung which have risen from 1 to 5 occurrences. As previously and as was to be expected, the two main groups of fatalities were senile, that is to say malignant disease (cancer) and cardiac (heart) - the respective figures having shown variations of only 6 and 2 upon 1953. Of Notifiable Diseases, there was only one epidemic during the year, that of whooping cough. As this disease is considered the pre-eminent scourge of early child life, particularly in relation to permanent or semi-permanent lung damage, it is to be greatly hoped that parent will avail themselves of the anti-whooping cough immunisation now offered by the Local Health Authority combined with protection against Diphtheria.

Yet again, there has been no appreciable variation in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified. There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified as such.

The unsatisfactorily sited and founded Refuse Tip at Pen Bonc, about which adverse comment was made in the Annual Report for last year, had to be maintained in use for lack of an alternative where site would be acceptable to all parties concerned. Although the use of an Angledozer has to some extent, ameliorated conditions, and although screens were tried out, this tip is, and will continue to be unsatisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector in his report comments at length upon this thorny problem of refuse disposal.

As the rate of rehousing by the Council has been increased by but 5 (to the grand total of 25) it is **not** considered inappropriate to repeat the comments upon this subject made in last year's Annual Report, but in view of the fact that the Sanitary Inspector deals at some length with this subject it may, perhaps, suffice to point out that the rate of completion of new houses for people who are either overcrowded and/or inadequately and unsatisfactorily housed has been for 1951(70); 1952(14); 1953(20) and only 25 in 1954. In view of the large need for rehousing, it is surprising that the morbidity rate for the District was not considerably higher and indeed it can only be suggested that climatic conditions have in some way prevented a higher disease rate. As has been mentioned earlier in this report the comparatively high birth rate exacerbates the "Housing Picture". The position will be intensified when the greatly overdue Clearance Order to cover approximately 50 appalling "dwellings" in the Whiston Street, Florence Street, Moulton Street ~~area~~ comes up for finalisation. At the end of the year there were still 145 Housing Applicants unsatisfied.

It is most satisfactory to realise that the standard of purity of that potentially most dangerous of food commodity - Ice Cream - has improved so much during the past twelve months. It is all the more gratifying to realise that it ~~was~~ two of the manufacturing retailers who rose to 100% Grade I standard during the year. Both of the other two manufacturing retailers showed marked improvement, the one bettering from 23% Grade I to 83.3% and the other from 60% to 75%. There were no samples of Grades III or IV quality. This improvement is, yet again, mostly due to the psychological effect of the Sanitary Inspector's diligence, and perhaps, in some smaller measure due to the effect produced upon retailers of press publicity given to instances of food poisoning traced to ice cream and indirectly having adverse economic sequelae.

During the year Colonial Students from the West Indies spent part of their training period at the Town Hall and no doubt will have benefitted greatly from the help given to them by the Sanitary Inspector carrying out his daily routine duties.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and members for their interest and support and the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector, and other officers of the Council for their willing co-operation and help.

I am Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G.H.B. Roberts.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	850
Population (Registrar General's mid. 1954 est.)			10,340
Rateable value	£53,958
Product of Penny Rate..		...	£204
Number of rateable premises			
i. Dwelling houses	...		3117
ii. Farm houses	...		5
iii. Business premises	...		531

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (Actual Occurrences)

	<u>1953</u>			<u>1954</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	66	71	137	79	97	176
Illegitimate	4	5	9	6	5	11
	<u>70</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>187</u>

The Birth Comparability factor is 1.01.

Birth Rates (Total)

The Crude Birth rate per 1,000 population = 18.1.

The Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 18.3.

The Birth Rate for Anglesey, 15.9; England & Wales, 15.2.

Stillbirths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	0	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (Live & Still) = 20.9.

The stillbirth rate for Anglesey was 25.1; England & Wales, 24.0.

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population = 0.4

The stillbirth rate for Anglesey = 0.41; England & Wales, 0.36.

DEATHS (total)

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
78	64	142
<u>78</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>142</u>

The Death Comparability factor is 0.91.

The crude death rate per 1,000 population = 13.5.

The corrected death rate per 1,000 population = 12.3.

The Death Rate for Anglesey was 14.2; England & Wales, 11.3.

MATERNAL DEATHS

Nil.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 37.4.
Rate for Anglesey, 28.2; England & Wales, 25.5.

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

The neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 32.1.
Rate for Anglesey, 17.0; England & Wales, 18.0.

CAUSES OF DEATHS

Causes of Death		M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	0
2.	Syphilitic disease ...	1	0
3.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2
4.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	4	1
5.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	1
6.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	2
7.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	6
8.	Diabetes ...	0	1
9.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	12
10.	Coronary disease angina ...	14	6
11.	Hypertension with heart disease...	3	3
12.	Other heart disease ...	10	13
13.	Other circulatory disease ...	2	0
14.	Pneumonia ...	2	2
15.	Bronchitis ...	5	6
16.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	2
17.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	0
18.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	0
19.	Congenital malformations ...	2	0
20.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	5
21.	All other accidents ...	1	2
22.	Suicide ...	1	0
Total		78	64

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in
age groups.

Diseases	Under 1	1-4yrs	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45 & over
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	49	49	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis

Age	Sex	Respiratory or Non-respiratory
3	M	Respiratory
16	F	"
17	M	"
21	F	"
21	F	"
22	M	"
23	F	"
28	F	"
29	M	"
32	F	"
34	M	"
37	M	"
49	M	"
49	M	"
55	F	Non-respiratory
58	M	Respiratory

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Smallpox.

A total of 36 children were vaccinated, of which 6 were re-vaccinations.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new-born infants born into tuberculous households and of tuberculin-negative contacts of known cases. During 1954, 31 such vaccinations were carried out in the District.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The total number of children immunised during 1954 was 204. The corresponding figure for 1953 was 143, 1952, 205; 1951, 152. These figures include the number carried out within the Sanitary District including those performed at Infant Welfare Centres and also on school premises.

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National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not necessary during the year to make application for a Court Order under section 47 of the Act for the removal to other accommodation of any person physically incapacitated and living in insanitary conditions.

Two separate cases of old ladies alleged to be living in filthy premises were referred by the County Welfare Department for investigation under section 83, Public Health Act, 1936. This type of case is always tragic and is becoming more prevalent as the aged population in the community increases. The root cause is the inability of the responsible authorities to accept cases into their care due to insufficient beds at hospitals. The conditions at the premises are a symptoms of the inability of the occupier to cope with accepted principles of day to day living in a civilised community. It was not found possible to take any positive and conclusive action and the two cases were finally admitted to hospital some months later.

Three inquiries were received respecting burial of the dead under section 50 of the Act but it was not necessary for the Council to undertake burial.

By arrangement with the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Management Committee, the mortuary at the Stanley Hospital is available for the reception of dead bodies on a fee paying basis, and it was used six times.

Camping Sites and Caravans

This is not a problem in the urban area but there is a tendency for private land at the Porthyfelin end of the promenade to be used for this purpose during the summer.

Public Conveniences

There are seven male and three female sanitary conveniences for general public use and it is common knowledge that some of them are not in accordance with modern standards. The Public Conveniences planned for Swift Square in 1949 had still not materialised at the end of 1954.

In 1953 the Council expressed concern at the crude and inadequate sanitary conveniences provided at the Park and at the end of 1954 little progress had been made in implementing the decision to build new conveniences.

Smoke Abatement

No action was necessary respecting six chimneys that could create smoke nuisance in the area, and some are only in occasional use.

Factories

The Factories Register is in need of revision and it was not found possible to give any routine attention to this matter, but 51 incidental visits were made to 22 premises and five defects were found and remedied.

Restriction on Dealing in Rags.

No contravention of section 154 Public Health Act 1936 was observed.

PEST CONTROL

The work undertaken is summarised on the form prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the financial year 1.4.54 to 31.3.55.

	Type of Property Non-agricultural			Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3. (4)	Agri- culti- ural. (5)
	Local Auth- ority (1)	Dwelling Houses (including Cl. Hses) (2)	All Other (including Business Premises). (3)		
(1) No. of properties in Local Authority's District.	5	3119	519	3643	10
(2) No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
a. Notification	-	71	17	88	-
b. Survey under the Act.	5	7	2	14	-
c. Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	-	319	122	441	-
(3) Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	10	807	494	1311	-
(4) No. of properties inspected (in Sec 2) which were found to be infested by					
a. Rats - Minor	2	35	2	39	-
b. Mice - Minor	1	7	11	19	-
(5) No. of infested properties treated by L.A.	3	42	13	58	-
(6) Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	5	52	16	73	-
(7) No. of notices served under sec. 4 of the Act:-					
a. Treatment	No notices served, but informal action secured treatment as in 6 above and proofing as in 7 (b) below.				
b. Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	7	-	7	-
(8) No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under sec. 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-

The town's sewerage system was not treated, but a comprehensive treatment was carried out in 1953. Sections of sewers were treated as an incidental measure in association with adjacent surface treatment of infestations, and manholes rat-proofed as found necessary.

It is the custom for British Railways to undertake their own rat control work on shipping and at port premises. Rat catching is preferred to rat poisoning but a reduction from 54 caught in 1953 to only 3 in 1954 is more suggestive of faulty control measures than a freedom from rats.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

A summary is submitted of the action taken for disinfection and disinfestation of premises.

<u>Disease or Infestation</u>	<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>Private Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	8	8	16	32
Cancer	-	1	1	2
Ants	3	14	17	34
Fleas	4	4	8	16
Bugs	1	2	3	6
Cleansing Requests	-	1	1	2
Bluebottles	-	1	1	2

The Medical Officer of Health notified the Sanitary Inspector of three cases of scarlet fever but only in one case was terminal disinfection undertaken, and this was carried out at the request of the family.

In infectious cases of tuberculosis the bedding is either voluntarily destroyed or steam sterilised at the expense of the Local Authority.

Disinfection and disinfestation are carried out by spraying a germicidal solution in the former and an insecticidal solution in the latter.

Acting under the instructions of the Medical Officer, two cases of Poliomyelitis were investigated.

Refuge and Salvage Disposal.

Eighteen tip supervision visits were made to the Recreation Ground Tip which ceased to be used on the 23rd February after twenty-nine weeks, and to the Penbonc Tip which came back into use for the rest of the year. The Penbonc Tip was manually controlled from 23rd February to 10th May due to the Angledozer being overhauled and used for other work. In an effort to reduce the nuisance caused by windblown debris on an extremely exposed site, litter screens were erected in July but later experience has demonstrated their comparative ineffectiveness during periods of high wind when they are most needed.

The search for other tipping sites for temporary or seasonal use continued throughout the year and the project bar at Cae Ty Fychan for recreational use was submitted for consideration, with the support of the Medical Officer of Health, but was rejected by the Council.

The long term proposal for a refuse tip at Penrhos Bach, originally made in September 1952, was reconsidered in June by the County Planning Authority and planning permission refused as:-

1. the proposal would cause serious injury to the amenities of a coastal area, and Penrhos Beach in particular
2. the site is liable to flooding and the proposal does not indicate that the applicants will take the necessary steps to prevent flooding.

In October, Mr. S.J. Roberts, M.I. Inst.E, an inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, conducted a Public Inquiry at the Valley Council Offices, into an appeal by the Holyhead U.D.C. against the refusal of the Anglesey County Council to allow the establishment of a controlled refuse tip adjacent to Penrhos Beach. The hearing lasted all day and the Council was represented by Mr. J.E. Jones, Barrister, instructed by Messrs T.R. Evans & Co. At the end of the Inquiry the inspector visited the proposed site at Penrhos Beach, and also the alternatives submitted by the Anglesey County Council at Felin Ddwr, and the Mountain Quarry, as well as the present unsuitable tip at Pen Bone.

In due course the Minister of Housing and Local Government dismissed the appeal as the case for allowing tipping on the site was not so strong as to warrant the grant of permission in the face of objections on amenity grounds, and further that he considered, that despite the fact that controlled tipping would be carried out, that the appearance of the site during the period of tipping operations would be such as to deprive the beach and public walk of much of its attractiveness.

This decision appears to suggest that the Minister is far more concerned with preservation of immediate amenity, than in the long term creation and improvement of amenity, and reclamation of land for agricultural or other use which would have been achieved by granting permission to use the land.

Considerable technical evidence was submitted at the Public Inquiry respecting the drainage difficulty and it was estimated that it would cost approximately £1000 to provide adequate damage facilities. The view was expressed on behalf of the Holyhead U.D.C. that it was a comparatively cheap and simple matter to repair and re-open the existing outfall on the beach, and the Council's Mechanical Excavator demonstrated this during the Inquiry. Later the County Council carried out work of a similar nature and laid some eighteen yards of eighteen inch concrete pipes on the foreshore and there has been no flooding of the fields as in previous years.

It is extremely difficult to secure a refuse tipping site as vested interest is bound to make itself heard, whilst agreeing that the project is essential on public health grounds, there is always the fundamental objection that somebody else's refuse is by implication more unsavoury than their own hygienic production. It is with a sense of frustration that two years work on the Penrhos Beach proposal has to be written off and a fresh start made where the owner of the land may not be as sympathetic in outlook, and as eager for reclamation of derelict land.

The income from salvage sales was as follows:-

Paper 55tons 7 cwts, 2 qrs£385.0.0d
Rags 3 cwts, 2 qrs£2.14.0d.

The waste paper tonnage was up some six tons on 1953, and an effort was made once more to overcome the apathy towards waste-paper collection by insisting that the Salvage Trailer be attached to the Refuse Vehicles for the last seven months of the year.

The Refuse Collection is composed of driver and five men and the total sick-leave for the year amounted to nine weeks confined to two of the personnel. The Refuse Tip labour force of one Angledozer Driver was on duty throughout the year.

The number of houses serviced each week for night soil collection is 97.

Dust Bin Service.

A determined effort was made to make the supply of bins more in keeping with the demand, and 558 galvanised 2½ cubic ft bins valued at £600 were bought, half the cost being met by raising a loan, and the other half charged to the Rate Fund. Unfortunately, there was a delay in delivering and only 250 bins had been distributed by the end of the year.

Water Supply

The Council's statutory interest in this vital and basic public health function ceased on 1st Oct. 1953 with the transfer of duties under Part IV of the Public Health Act, 1936 to the County Council under the terms of the Anglesey County Council (Water etc) Act, 1944 and as the newly appointed County Sanitary Inspector did not take up duties until 1st April 1954, action continued to be taken locally in accordance with the following summary:-

<u>No. of Premises Inspected</u>	<u>No. with Deficient Supply.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>	<u>No. of Services Rendered</u>
14	14	85	8

The County Council took 37 samples from the mains supply at the premises for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, and of these, two were unsatisfactory being placed in Class III and Class IV being considered a suspicious water, and an unsatisfactory water respectively, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Classification. One sample from a private supply was examined and found satisfactory.

HOUSING

Action undertaken is summarised as follows:-

<u>No. of premises found defective</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>	<u>No. of Notices.</u>	<u>No. of Houses repaired.</u>
107	311	81	95

No individual unfit house was represented during the year for closure, or demolition under section II, Housing Act, 1936, but two families consisting of three persons were displaced from houses subject to operative Demolition Orders. Three families consisting of eight persons were rehoused from Clearance Areas, and two houses in a Clearance Area were demolished. One house was repaired under the terms of a Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act, and one statutory notice was outstanding at the end of the year.

In January, the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order respecting seven small houses in Cross Street and Well Street, which were reported upon at the Health Committee meeting in October 1953. Confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order was received from the Minister of Housing and Local Government in February 1955.

Local Authorities received their first post war Government on Slum Clearance when the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued Circular 30/54 in March. This Circular stressed that Local Authorities should forthwith resume full exercise of their powers under Part II and Part III (Clearance Area) of the Housing Act, 1936, in anticipation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill becoming law as preparatory work in reviewing housing conditions would enable effective action to be taken under the new law earlier than would otherwise be possible. In pursuance of this directive, the Moulton Street Clearance Order involving 48 houses was made in July. This is the largest single Clearance Area ever declared by the Council, who had recognised the necessity for clearance as far back as 1939 when the declaration of War caused official action to be postponed.

The Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954 came into force on the 30th August, 1954, and deals with the two highly important distinct, but related subjects of repair and demolition of houses and with rent increases for repairs.

The first task facing Local Authorities under Part I of the Act is the preparation and submission to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within one year, of proposals for dealing with houses which are unfit for habitation. The Act introduces a new principle known as "deferred demolition" and this caused considerable discussion in Parliament, but it is a common sense arrangement for those districts where there are large numbers of unfit houses which ought to be cleared, but which cannot all be demolished for many years. Local Authorities are now given power, when they have purchased houses in a Clearance Area, to postpone demolition and to patch up the houses to ameliorate the conditions under which their occupants are forced to live until the houses can be pulled down. Individual unfit houses may also be bought for this purpose in lieu of making Demolition Orders.

The main task falling on Local Authorities under Part II of the Act is that of dealing with applications from tenants for Certificates of Dis-repair where a landlord has claimed a repairs increase in rent and the tenant feels that the house is not in a sufficiently good condition to justify it.

In the period 30th August, 1954 to 31st March 1955, two applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair and two certificates were granted by the Council.

At the Annual Conference of the Sanitary Inspector's Association at Southport in September, the President, Lord Milner said:-

"Housing will certainly remain a major part of a Sanitary Inspector's duties for many years to come. The Government's decision to stimulate slum clearance was a very welcome step and with the passage of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, Local Authorities now have the opportunity of getting to grip in earnest with this aspect of the housing problem. Decent living conditions are the foundation of good environmental sanitation, and in this work the Sanitary Inspector has a key position now, as he had in the 1930's when the former slum clearance drive was at its largest.

One of the conference resolutions dealt with the implementation of the Improvement Grants provision of the Housing Act, 1949 and commented the issue of revised practise notes for the guidance of Local Authorities in dealing with applications for Improvement Grants. The limits of £150 - £800 for expenditure were altered in April 1954 so that a minimum expenditure of £100 would ask for grant and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 removed the upper financial limit of £800 but fixed the maximum grant as £400 and reduced the minimum expected life of the improved house from thirty years to fifteen years.

Four applications for Improvements Grants were considered and approved.

Two applications for licences for temporary occupation of houses subject to an existing Demolition Order or Clearance order were considered under Section 6, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the application concerning the house in the Clearance Area was rejected, and agreement was being sought at the end of the year in the second case as to the repairs necessary to bring the House up to a standard adequate for the time being.

Overcrowding

No reliable statistical data is available respecting the degree and extent of statutory overcrowding in terms of the Housing Act, 1936, but cases found on investigation of housing applications are rehoused in Council Houses as opportunity arises.

Provision of Housing Accommodation

The position is summarised as follows:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>3 Bedrooms</u>	
	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
By Council	20	25
Private Enterprise	6	4

The pattern of Council House completion is irregular and discouraging, 70 houses in 1951; 14 in 1952; and 20 in 1953.

The Chief Financial Officer summarises the Council's position - regarding the Housing Estate and Requisitioned Premises at the end of the year as follows:-

<u>TENANTS</u> <u>In Arrear</u>			<u>Accommodation</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Weekly</u> <u>Rental</u>	<u>ARREARS</u>	
<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>			<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
19	7	37	Requisitioned Premises	23.2.4	35. 2.5	152
62	7	11	Temporary Houses	79.6.2	10.19.6	12
395	122	31	Permanent Houses	503.7.3	285. 9.7	57
476	136	29		£605.15.9	£331.11.6	55%

Housing Applications

The Housing application list was completely revised at the beginning of 1952 and there were 242 applications listed at the end of the year, with 347 being the cumulative figure for 1953 and 145 applications at end of 1954. The housing conditions of fifteen applicants were investigated, and seven applications for transfers in Council Houses were received.

Drainage and Sewerage

The work is summarised as follows:-

<u>No. of Premises with choked drains</u>	<u>No. of Notices</u>	<u>No. of visits</u>	<u>Drains cleared or repaired</u>
126	125	177	126

This essential but unpleasant service is undertaken by the Council as re-chargeable private work, but that does not debar a private contractor from dealing with defective drains in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The West Holyhead Sewerage Scheme continues to make slow and uncertain progress, the most prominent feature being the absence of any public indication of any action at all.

Flooding in the Well Street area occurs with monotonous regularity according to weather and tidal conditions.

Sanitary Accommodation

The work is summarised as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Fitting provided or repaired</u>
Defective W.C. Cisterns	12	30	12	12
Defective W.C. pans	13	30	13	13
Defective closet pails	6	12	6	6
Lacking W.C. Cisterns	12	28	12	-
Defective W.C. Structures	5	24	5	4

One water closet trap was renewed under a statutory notice under section 45, Public Health Act, 1936 the work being undertaken in default by the Council and charged against the occupier in accordance with section 290 of the Act.

The unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic School has been consistently commented upon in previous reports and it is now learnt that a new school is to be built in due course.

Licensed Premises

The usual annual report on conditions at Licensed Premises was submitted to the Magistrates at the Annual Licensing Sessions in February which was held at Valley for the first time this year due to re-organisation within the Second Petty Sessional Division. In past years it was the custom to consider Urban District Licenses at Holyhead and a valuable opportunity was provided for commenting on public health conditions on a comparative, confined and common basis and a considerable improvement has been obtained in conditions in this way since 1946. The work started then for structural alterations involving re-modelling and provision of modern sanitary conveniences has now been completed, and it can be claimed that conditions are now of an approved standard at the twenty four public houses, three cinemas, two billiard halls and two halls licensed for public entertainment. Twenty-nine visits were made to nineteen premises.

Food Premises.

The visits to food premises under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 were generally concerned with requests to examine alleged unsound food, and the opportunity was taken to carry

out an incidental inspection of the premises, and 200 visits to 53 premises were made in this way and as a routine measure.

It is pleasing to record instances from time to time where the Food Trade voluntarily improve their premises or equipment. Refrigerators were installed in two grocer's shops, and one confectioner's shop was entirely refitted. A new automatic milk bottle filler was fixed in a dairy and some transparent plastic covers for fish were an innovation at a wet fishmonger's.

Mice droppings were found in a newly delivered bag of flour at a bakehouse and the wholesaler promptly replaced it on notification. In February there was a national scare arising out of the finding of tinned Irish cream contaminated with *Salmonella typhi-murium* organisms in the Midlands. Local food retailers were circularised as part of the press and radio warning measures, recalling all stocks of that brand of cream. No reports of any local stocks were received, and despite a very pointed reference to the bacteria being an infection of mice, was there found a food-dealer who was honest enough or frightened enough to admit that there were mice on his premises, and to seek eradication advice. A loaf baked in a local Bakehouse was found to contain a cockroach but no statutory action was considered necessary. It is perhaps time to say that despite the utmost vigilance and care in control measures, bakehouses do become infested with this parasite, and it is a matter of grave concern to the baker when something like this happens after years of careful observation of recommended practices.

The utmost care has to be exercised in dealing with complaints against food distributions, so the customer is not always at right as he thinks he is, and indeed at times one is not too sure that the motive is as highly principled as the complainant simulates. A highly indignant railway worker produced the remains of boiled ham sandwiches and egg sandwiches forming the residue of a packed lunch and delicately picked out one grub, alleging that the bread was unfit when sold. It took six weeks for expert opinion to identify the grub as that of the Tobacco Moth or *Ephestia ellutella* which is the most important insect pest of stored cocoa and tobacco in the British Isles. It is unusual to find it in bread but not unknown. This was a case of some academic interest but there was such a confused mass of circumstantial evidence as to make action impossible against the vendor under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

ICE CREAM CONTROL

In the tables below details are given of the results of testing 174 samples of Ice Cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the period May - September, 1954. There are two local manufacturers using the Hot Mix Method and two using the complete Cold Mix Method. There are twenty seven non-manufacturing retailers who sell pre-packed proprietary brands bought in bulk.

Manufacturing -retailers

<u>Dealer</u>	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>	<u>Grade III</u>	<u>Grade IV</u>
A	8	100%	-	-	-
B	6	83.3%	16.7%	-	-
C	2	100%	-	-	-
D	4	75.0%	25.0%	-	-
Total	20	90.0%	10.0%	-	-

Non-Manufacturing Retailers

Twenty seven dealers.

154	96.1%	2.6%	1.3%	-
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The improvement in the hygienic quality witnessed in previous years has been maintained during this season as is shown by the following comparisons:-

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Grades I & II</u>	<u>Retailers</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Grades I & II</u>
	1949	54.0%		1949	58.0%
	1952	95.8%		1952	89.4%
	1953	81.2%		1953	95.3%
	1954	100%		1954	98.7%

Due to the wet summer, there was less ice cream available on the sampling dates, and only 174 samples were obtained as compared with 227 in 1953. The general picture is satisfactory, and this is largely the result of the elimination of the "home-trade" type of ice cream in the post-war years, and the introduction of large scale bulk production concentrated in the hands of some half a dozen wholesale manufacturers with a nationwide sales organisation based on modern production methods.

Three premises were registered for the sale of wrapped pre-packed ice cream under section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

MILK CONTROL

Number of non-designated milk retailers	...	5
Number of pasteurised milk retailers	...	1
Number of tuberculin tested milk retailers	...	4

During the period May - September 36 samples of un-graded milks and 33 samples of designated milks were obtained and subjected to the prescribed test for Tuberculin Tested Milk under the Raw Milk Special Designation Regulations 1949, and all satisfied the requirements of the test. A particularly pleasing feature of recent years is the consistently high standard achieved by the producer-retailers of ordinary milk in passing the cleanliness standard for tuberculin-tested milk, a feat only attained with difficulty by some tuberculin-tested producers in pre-war years.

All the milk retailed in the town has been subjected to the biological test for tubercle bacilli contamination, and were all found clear of infection. This involved the taking of six samples of ordinary milks and six samples of tuberculin-tested milks, and one pasteurised milk.

The County Council, as the Licensing Authority for establishments where pasteurised milk is processed, took 76 samples, all which satisfied the prescribed statutory test.

There is a general increase throughout the county in the number of complaints by the public about foreign bodies in food. This might be due to the public becoming more food hygienic conscious allied to the mis-chance of the unforeseen breakdown in processing routine for which the food producer is liable at law. One has considerable sympathy with a person who suddenly finds his mouth full of glass splinter when drinking a tumbler of milk. There was no doubt that the glass fragments in this instance were from the rim of the neck of the milk bottle. It was considered advisable, because of legal proof technicalities, not to prosecute the milk distributor under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD & DRUGS CONTROL

The following samples of food and drugs were obtained at Holyhead by the County Sanitary Officer and submitted for examination under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938:-

GENUINE SAMPLES

Concentrate of Liver Tablets...	1	Beef Sausage	2
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules	3	Stewed Steak	1
Beer	2	Fish Cakes	1
Margarine	2	Pure Malt Vinegar	2
Ground White Pepper	1	Compound Juniper Pills	1
Butter Toffee	1	Calomine Lotion	2
Cheese Spread	1	Fruit Cake	1
Mixed Peel	1	White Bread	1
Sugared Almonds	1	Lemon Juice	1
Strawberries in Syrup	1	Moussec Wine	1
Rasberries in Syrup	1	Ice Cream	4
Grape Fruit in Syrup	1	Milk	4

One sample of milk was pronounced as being low in non-fatty solids but with a normal freezing point indicating the absence of added water.

One packet of Processed Dutch Cream Cheese was found to have a misleading label due to the different method of assessing the butter fat content in Holland and agreement was obtained on a more appropriate label for future use.

Forty-five samples of milk intended for consumption within the urban area were informally examined at the County Council's Laboratory at Llangefni with the result that the five follow-up samples referred to above were submitted to the Public Analyst for a formal determination of butter fat and non-fatty solids.

Food Inspection

At midnight on the 3rd July, meat and livestock control instituted on the 15th January, 1940 ended throughout the country. The last allocation of rationed meat was made by the Ministry of Food on the 30th June. The Council took over the Cambria Street Slaughterhouse on the 1st July, and previous consultation with the Meat Trade resulted in a smooth change over to private slaughtering at a Public Slaughterhouse provided as a charge on the Rate Fund. The opinion expressed at the time that this public health service would not be financially self-supporting has been fulfilled, but the value of the service to the community cannot be assessed on a profit and loss accountancy basis, though it is well that serious thought should be directed to operating the project with the least deficiency compatible with sound management.

In 1939, there were six slaughterhouses, including the one at the British Railways, scattered throughout the town, and two on the rural boundary, serving the needs of the local population, which was met by fifteen meat shops of which two dealt in imported meat.

Since the end of the 1939-45 War, the Council has given consideration to provision of a Public Slaughterhouse, to obviate the haphazard slaughtering at unsuitable pre-war establishments which had for too long enjoyed legal immunity from closure, and this culminated in 1952 in a decision to buy the Cambria Street Slaughterhouse then in the occupation of the Ministry of Food, but loan consent was withheld due to Government restriction on capital expenditure. The securing of immediate slaughtering facilities at Holyhead is purely an interim measure, based on the Interim Report of the Government Interdepartmental Committee published in January 1954, pending a declaration on the accepted long term policy of siting of slaughterhouses, on the principle of moderate concentration on an area or required location, and the continuation

of centralised slaughtering at Cambria Street, will not interfere with the implementation of this policy in due course.

Slaughtering tolls amounting to £514.5.8d were charged at the Public Slaughterhouse during the period 2nd July - 31st December, 1954.

During the year 272 visits were made to the slaughterhouse and 135 to the Cattle yard, and the record of meat found unfit is as follows:-

Carcasses Condemned

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	600	312	22	6328	1357
Number killed (Ex. Eire)	780	1	-	1538	-
TOTAL	1380	313	22	7866	1357
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	83	12	3	39	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	603	193	-	1072	27
Percentage of the number Insepted affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	49.7%	65.5%	13.6%	14.1%	2.4%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	107	10	-	-	34
Percentage of the number Inspected affected with Disease.	7.8%	3.5%	-	-	2.5%

Weights of Unfit Meat

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis	5237	-	-	393
Dropsy	6614	29	274	175
Fever	2845	-	753	62
Immaturity	-	104	-	-
Moribund	47202	-	50	-
Injuries	2335	-	43	69
Parasites	243	-	1630	-
Cirrhosis	7179	-	-	55
Peritonitis	680	-	-	-
Pleurisy	-	-	-	4
Enteritis	-	-	-	28
Mastitis	110	-	61	-
Pyæmia	553	-	42	-
Abscess	-	-	20	39
Fatty Infiltration	-	-	95	-
Nephritis	-	-	1	-
Total	72,998	233	2969	825

Total Weight for the Year:-

34 tons 7 cwts 2 qrs 25 lbs

Other Unsound Meat

Meat	-	84 tins	-	368 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Fish	-	19 "	-	102 lbs
Vegetables	-	149 "	-	245 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Milk	-	35 "	-	46 lbs
Fruit	-	136 "	-	214 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs

472 tins x 1 lb	-	Pickering Prunes	-	Returned for re-processing
334 lbs	-	Meat	-	Borne Taint
4 x 4oz pkts	}	Cheese Spread	-	Mouldy
6 x 6 portions			-	Rancid
271 lbs	-	Sausage	-	Scur
60 lbs	-	Raisings	-	Sour
13 lbs	-	Leg of Pork	-	Fracture
237 lbs	-	Imported Beef	-	Borne Taint
7 lbs	-	Pressed Pork	-	Decomposition
13 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs	-	Roasted Pork	-	Decomposition
3 Cases - 90 lbs	-	Sultanas	-	Rancid
49 lbs	-	Wet Fish	-	Decomposition
9 lbs	-	Ham Gammon	-	"

The tonnage for condemned meat is more than double that for 1953 but there is no cause for alarm as it is very simply explained by the fact that during bad weather in November and December, 74 cattle in transit from Dublin had to be destroyed due to conditions at sea, and the carcasses were unfit for human consumption.

Imported Food

The system introduced at the end of October 1952, whereby notification of imported food in transit is sent to the Local Authorities at the point of destination was continued and applied with increasing thoroughness, resulting in 1465 notifications being despatched and the manifests of 527 ships being scrutinised out of a total of 529 vessels docking. It is pleasing to make the comparison with 1951 when the Sanitary Inspector was unable to find time to carry out any of his prescribed functions under the Imported Food Regulations.

Some concern was caused by the Council in October when it became known that meat container traffic from the Republic of Ireland was being diverted to Fleetwood, a port not hitherto used for this purpose. Extensive inquiries were made of the trading interests involved and it appears that the expediency might have arisen out of a demand for a better service from the meat exporters resulting in the creation of an additional port of entry. This diversion lasted from the 5th October 1954 to 11th November, 1955.

Amount of Shipping Entering the District During the Year.

<u>Ships from:-</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Nett Reg.Tons</u>
Foreign Ports	9	1,961
Coastwise	1,186	1,512,467
Fishing Vessels	254	

Principal Ports from which ships arrive

Cargo Vessels	:	Dublin North Wall
Passenger Vessels	:	Dun Laoghaire

Character of Shipping and Trade During the Year.

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	<u>No. of Passengers</u>	
	<u>Inwards</u>	<u>Outwards</u>
Cargo Service	617	348
Mail Service	374,003	354,739

CARGO TRAFFIC

Docks, Harbour and Wharves Tonnages 1954-
Tonnages Divided into Commodities

	<u>Imported (Tons)</u>	<u>Exported (Tons)</u>
Agriculture Machinery	-	1,074
Ale and Guinness Stout	4,852	352
Building and Road Making Material	-	1,852
Bunker Oil and Spirit	-	8,045
Bunker Coal and Coke	-	12,149
Chemicals and Chemical Fertilisers	8	10,687
Confectionery	884	16
Cigarettes	132	-
Eggs	142	-
Earthenware, Firebricks, Tiles etc.	-	2,050
Fish and Shell Fish	1,844	246
Fruit and Vegetables	190	313
Glassware	18	671
Grain and Flour Milling Offal	61	-
Iron and other Ores	-	-
Iron and Steel Tubes and Manfrs.	132	12,394
Household Effects	1,031	154
Leather and Leather Manfrs.	70	72
Livestocks	52,568	888
Machinery and Castings	688	2,993
Meat - Fish	43,508	-
Meat - Bacon	324	-
Meat - Canned	534	-
Meat - Offal	747	-
Meat - Sausages	148	-
Minerals	-	7,390
Other Textiles	231	1,254
Paper, Cardboard, Periodicals & News	1,190	2,679
Parcel Post	3,260	6,122
Peat	291	-
Poultry, Game and Rabbits	3,257	-
Pelts - Rabbits	60	-
Quarry Products - Slate	-	1,102
Rags	283	-

CARGO TRAFFIC (Continued)

	<u>Imported (Tons)</u>	<u>Exported (Tons)</u>
Returned Empties	3,880	15,750
Sea-weed	42	--
Tobacco Offal	563	--
Vehicles and Parts	3,005	3,313
Wines and Spirits	258	105
Wool Raw	1,242	609
Woollen Goods	72	987
Yeast	--	97
General Traffic	5,880	26,974
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TOTALS :	136,395	120,318
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GRAND TOTAL 256,713 tons

